



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian**  
**Northern District of New York**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 17, 2010

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Massena Police Department Chief Timmy J. Currier announced today that CHRISTOPHER S. MORIN, age 39, of Massena, New York, was charged by criminal complaint on Sunday, August 15, 2010, with the offense of using facilities or means of interstate commerce, specifically a cellular telephone and Facebook account, to knowingly persuade, induce, entice and coerce an individual who has not obtained the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged with a criminal offense, or attempting to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b). MORIN appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Larry A. Kudrle in Plattsburgh, New York, on August 15, 2010. The Court ordered MORIN into the custody of the United States Marshal pending a detention hearing. On Tuesday, August 17, 2010, at the detention hearing in Plattsburgh, Judge Kudrle ordered that MORIN be released on \$100,000.00 bond secured by cash or property as well as other conditions to include that MORIN be subject to electronic monitoring and that he have no contact with any victims or witnesses in the case or anyone under the age of eighteen (18).

The charge in the Complaint carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, and a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000, or both.

On or about August 6, 2010, the Massena Police Department opened an investigation into alleged contacts by text messages between a 39 year-old adult male and a 15 year-old female in Massena. The original complaint was filed with the Police Department by the parents of the 15 year-old female. MORIN allegedly was texting and using the Internet site Facebook to contact the 15 year

old female and attempt to lure her from her home with the promise of alcohol and drugs in exchange for sex. A Massena Police Investigator and a Special Agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained consent to assume control of the 15 year-old's cellular phone and Facebook account. They had contact with MORIN over one hundred times through texting and Facebook. MORIN and an undercover agent posing as the 15 year-old female agreed to a late night "meeting" away from the girl's home. At approximately 1:00 a.m. on August 14, 2010, in or near Hogansburg, New York, agents took MORIN into custody without incident at the location where the "meeting" was to take place.

The Massena Police Department was assisted in the investigation by ICE and the New York State Police. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York with the cooperation of the St. Lawrence County District Attorney's Office. "This case demonstrates the threat that exists to our children in today's world of technology. We must recognize the threat and take steps to protect our children, by monitoring and supervising their activity on line and on mobile data devices," stated Massena Police Chief Currier. "The cooperation that already exists between federal and state authorities and this agency played a major role in this investigation. Our ability to reach out and tap into their resources and get the support needed made this case possible and helped take this individual off the street and prevent something much worse from occurring," Chief Currier added.

The charge contained in the Complaint is merely an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman in Plattsburgh at 518-314-7800.